(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts being made by Government to increase the consumption of organic food items; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As organic crops are grown without the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, these are likely to be free from pesticide and fertilizer residues contamination.

(c) and (d) Under the National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) launched during 2004-05, financial assistance, is *inter-alia* provided for creating awareness through international/national/regional seminars/exhibitions and publicity through print and electronic media to increase production and consumption of organic food. To ensure quality of organic produce, the 'National Programme on Organic Production' was launched in 2002. Assistance for promotion of organic farming is provided as a component of the National Horticulture Mission.

Norms for price fixation of drugs

734. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of drugs in various categories currently under the Drugs Price Control Order, 1995;

(b) the extent of revision allowed, if any, in life saving drugs prices during the last five years indicating reasons therefor in respective instances;

(c) whether 'Levofloxacin' falls in life saving drug category;

(d) whether Government has been seized of wide variations in price of 'Levofloxacin, of different manufacturers;

(e) if so, whether the rationale behind such variations, particularly with a view to protecting the consumers, have been ascertained or not; and

(f) the norms prescribed, if any, for manufacturers in fixation of prices of scheduled and non-scheduled drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) There are 74 bulk drugs included in the first schedule of the Drug Price Control Order, 1995. NPPA/Government fixes/revises prices of these scheduled drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs as per the provisions of DPCO, 1995. Life saving drugs are not defined under DPCO 1995. In respect of scheduled formulations, the prices are revised / fixed as per the provisions of DPCO 1995.

(c) to (e) As stated above life saving drugs are not defined under DPCO 1995. Levofloxacin is a non-scheduled bulk drug and is not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. In

respect of drugs not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers are at liberty to fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government / NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities / packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc.

(f) The prices of scheduled bulk drugs and formulations thereof are fixed in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 1995. However, price of non-scheduled drugs are fixed by manufacturers themselves depending on various factors as mentioned in reply to Para (c) to (e) above.

Renewal of contracts of NIPER

735. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high powered Committee was constituted in the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali, to consider renewal of contracts by NIPER;

(b) whether the report of the Committee has been received, if so, what are the major recommendations and findings; and

(c) the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Yes, a committee has been constituted in the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research(NIPER) to review the existing Recruitment Rules. The Committee will see the renewal of the contract aspect as well. The Committee's report is awaited.

Keeping Urea in the list of controlled fertilizers

†736.SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to review rate of secondary freight for Urea and if so, by when decision in this regard will be taken;

(b) whether Government is considering to bring Urea into the list of decontrolled fertilizers, if so, by when decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(c) whether there is adequate stock of Urea in the country, if so, reasons for very less allocation of Urea to Government of Madhya Pradesh under ECA; and

(d) whether ECA would be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Under the Uniform Policy for freight subsidy on subsidized fertilizers, the freight is paid on transportation of fertilizers as rail freight and road freight The rail freight is paid on actual whereas the road freight is paid on the basis of normative district leads and a normative per tonne per Km rate. There is no concept of secondary freight under the Uniform freight policy effective from 1st April, 2008.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi